

Methamphetamines

Methamphetamine is sold in pill or powder form, and can be swallowed, inhaled, or injected

Methamphetamines and amphetamines are also highly addictive and dangerous stimulants. Commonly referred to as uppers and speed, these drugs are sold in powder, pill, and capsule forms that can be inhaled through the nose, swallowed, or injected. Like cocaine and crack, the physical effects of methamphetamines and amphetamines are increased alertness, euphoria, appetite loss, dilated pupils, elevated heart rate, increased respiration, and elevated body temperature. Prolonged use of these drugs can cause blurred vision, dizziness, loss of coordination, and collapse. An overdose can result in high blood pressure, fever, stroke, and heart failure.

The most popular of the two drugs are methamphetamines, commonly called speed, meth, crank, crystal, or crystal meth or in its smokable form, ice, glass or crystal. Methamphetamines are usually found in powder form in colors ranging from white to tan, and can be swallowed, inhaled through the nose, or injected. It is sold in small plastic or paper packets or plastic bags. The paraphernalia associated with inhaling the drug are razor blades, mirrors, straws, and rolled dollar bills; the paraphernalia associated with injecting the drug include syringes, spoons, and surgical tubing, bandanas, or a belt used to constrict the vein.

Marijuana

Marijuana is sold in plastic bags or in hand rolled cigarettes known as joints.

Following alcohol, marijuana is the second most popular drug with youth. It consists of the leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds of the cannabis plant, which are dried and chopped into small amounts.

Marijuana can also be found as Sinsemilla, the potent flowering tops of the female marijuana plant.

Commonly referred to as grass, pot, weed, Acapulco Gold, ganja,

and smoke, marijuana is usually sold and stored in small plastic bags, aluminum foil, or small rolled cigarettes. Marijuana is usually smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes called "joints," and has a strong, pungent odor when smoked. Once the marijuana cigarette is partially smoked, it is often held by a small clip called a "roach clip." (Roach clips are made from many items, such as tweezers or electrical clips.) The leaves can also be smoked in small wooden pipes or water-filled pipes called "bongs." And finally, marijuana can also be blended into food, then cooked and eaten, most often in brownies.

Marijuana is smoked in small pipes or rolled into cigarettes which are sometimes held by "roach clips".

Paraphernalia associated with marijuana includes pipes, bangs, rolling papers, plastic bags, roach clips, "stash boxes" (decorative boxes designed to conceal and store marijuana), and eye drops and breath fresheners used to cover up signs of use of the drug.

Common ways to store and conceal marijuana.

In low doses, marijuana can induce restlessness, a dreamy state of relaxation, red or bloodshot eyes, and increased appetite. Stronger doses can cause shifting sensory images, rapidly fluctuating emotions, a loss of self-identity, fantasies, and hallucinations or image distortions.

Heroin

Heroin comes in a white to brown powder or a dark tar-like substance, and is sold in a variety of packaging

The most dangerous and addictive narcotic is heroin. While receiving less publicity today than newer, more popular drugs, it continues to be a major problem in this country. Not only is heroin extremely addictive and dangerous, but as with cocaine and methamphetamines, addicts often resort to crimes such as burglary, grand theft, robbery, or prostitution to support their habits.

Sometimes called black tar, mud, smack, China white, or Mexican brown, heroin is derived from opium poppies. In its powder form,

it may range in color from white to a very dark brown. The most popular form of heroin is a dark tar-like substance called black tar, which is sold in small foil or cellophane packets or in small toy balloons.

The most common use of heroin is by injection (called "mainlining" or "shooting"), but in its powder form it can be inhaled through the nose or smoked. Paraphernalia for injecting heroin include hypodermic needles, small cotton balls used to strain the drug, and water and spoons or bottle caps used for "cooking" or liquefying the heroin. Paraphernalia for inhaling or smoking heroin includes razor blades, straws, rolled dollar bills, and pipes. The high from the drug usually lasts from four to six hours.

Black tar heroin and the paraphernalia for injecting and storing the drug

If your child is under the influence of heroin, he or she may have constricted pupils, droopy eyelids, depression, apathy, decreased physical activity, and nausea. A frequent user may nod or appear sleepy, and repeatedly scratch or touch their face and nose.

Larger doses of heroin may induce sleep, vomiting, and shallow breathing. An overdose can cause slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, convulsions, coma, or death.

In addition, there is a family of chemically manufactured drugs often referred to as "designer drugs". These drugs have been falsely represented as "synthetic heroin." The most prevalent of these "designer drugs" is fentanyl citrate, also called China white, which is many times more powerful than heroin and has caused a number of deaths among addicts. Fentanyl citrate is used in the same manner as heroin.

Crack

Examples of two homemade rock or crack pipes

Crack and rock cocaine are forms of cocaine that are extremely addictive and very dangerous. (Crack and rock cocaine are nearly identical drugs, hence they will be referred to as crack only.) Crack has quickly become a major problem in this country because it is

inexpensive, readily available, and highly addictive. Crack comes in white to tan pellets and is sold in small vials. It is smoked in glass pipes and makes a crackling sound when it is smoked.

Paraphernalia associated with crack includes glass pipes called "base" pipes, homemade pipes, and small vials used to store the drug.

Crack is absorbed into the blood stream through the lungs in just a few seconds. If your teenager is using crack, he or she will temporarily appear euphoric, extremely alert, and highly energetic. Other symptoms include dilated pupils, loss of appetite, elevated heart rate, elevated respiration rate, and higher body temperature. The high lasts only a few minutes, leaving an intense depression called a "crash" and an immediate desire for more of the drug. The severe addiction associated with crack stems not only from a desire for the euphoria of the high but a desire to escape from the "crash" following the high. Prolonged use of crack can cause extreme irritability, depression, paranoia, convulsions or death.

Cocaine

Powdered cocaine and its derivatives, rock and crack

Cocaine is produced as a white chunky powder and is often called coke, blow, white, snow, snort, flake, nose candy, hubba, or cane. It is said most often in aluminum foil, plastic or paper packets, or small vials. Cocaine is usually chopped into a fine powder with a razor blade on a small mirror or some other hard surface, arranged into small rows called "lines," then quickly inhaled (or "snorted") through the nose with a short straw or rolled up paper money. It can also be injected into the blood stream.

Cocaine paraphernalia, including scales dealers use to weigh the drug, and mirrors and razor blades used for preparing the drug before inhaling

Paraphernalia associated with inhaling cocaine include mirrors, razor blades, straws, and rolled paper money, while paraphernalia associated with injecting the drug include syringes, needles,

spoons, and belts, bandanas or surgical tubing used to constrict the veins. Scales are used by dealers to weigh the drug. Sometimes substances such as baking soda or mannitol are used to "cut" cocaine in order to dilute the drug and increase the quantity of the drug for sale.

Cocaine powder is sold in plastic bags, glass vials, or in small cellophane or paper packets

The high from a typical inhaled dose of cocaine lasts for about 20 minutes. During this time your teenager may appear very alert, confident, energetic, and stimulated; physical signs include dilated eyes and a runny nose, and little or no appetite. The high from cocaine is followed by profound depression, an intense desire for another dose of the drug, mental fatigue, restlessness, and irritability. An overdose of cocaine can cause extreme agitation, respiratory failure, heart failure, or death.